



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **INQUIRY INTO DRIVER AND ROAD USER DISTRACTION**

6 March 2012

Staysafe – the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety – has launched an investigation into distractions and their impact on the safety of drivers, passengers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Staysafe will investigate possible distractions including:

- hand held electronic devices
- in-vehicle navigation and audio and video equipment
- passenger behaviour
- external visual displays and traffic signs

"While recognised as a major and potentially growing problem area, the precise safety impact of such distractions remains unclear," said Mr Greg Aplin MP, Member for Albury and Chair of the Staysafe Committee.

"We all see drivers and pedestrians using mobile phones, music players, GPS equipment and other devices while in traffic, and we hear of deaths and injury attributed to their use. But would more laws and personal restrictions be an overreaction or sensible and necessary?"

The National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 cites driver distraction as a significant contributor to crash casualties. The Committee will examine the role of distraction in crash casualties as it affects all road users in NSW, with a view to identifying its impact and to propose solutions for reducing safety risks and possible casualties.

"The Committee is seeking to involve road safety experts and the community in providing advice to Government about the best way to ensure the safety of everyone travelling on NSW Roads", Mr Aplin said.

Submissions are requested by 27 April 2012, anticipating the calling of further evidence at public hearings to be conducted shortly thereafter. Terms of reference are attached.

Written submissions should be forwarded to: The Staysafe Committee, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000, or by email to [staysafe@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:staysafe@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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